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Congress of the United States

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The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader Elect of the House
H-307 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert and Minority Leader Elect Pelosi:

We are writing to bring to your attention important new data from the Census Bureau: the adjusted census data for the 2000 census. We received this data from the Census Bureau on December 5, 2001, in response to a lawsuit we filed as members of the Committee on Government Reform. A preliminary analysis of the adjusted data shows that there was a large undercount and that in all states except Alaska the undercount was much higher for blacks and Hispanics than for whites. Analysis of census data on the undercount has consistently indicated that those missed tended to be poor and live in urban and rural areas, while those counted twice tended to be affluent and suburban.

In 1990, the census missed millions of people and counted millions more twice. After a lengthy review of 1990 census operations, national experts recommended that the planning for the 2000 census include a program to correct for errors in the census. The Census Bureau, under the Clinton Administration, spent over \$250 million implementing these recommendations, and adjusted data was created to correct for these errors.

After the adjusted numbers were prepared, however, the Bush Administration decided not to use them or release them for independent analysis. The ostensible reason was that the program to correct census errors, known as the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation, underestimated the number of people counted twice in the census. But the evidence suggests that the decision was made for political rather than scientific reasons. The Director of the Census Bureau testified before Congress in June 2000 that if the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation were carried out as planned, the adjusted numbers would be more accurate than the unadjusted numbers. In fact, the

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evaluation was carried out as planned, and in March 2001, after the adjusted data was completed, the Census Bureau's Executive Steering Committee for Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Policy found that "the majority of the evidence indicates . . . the superior accuracy of the adjusted numbers."¹ The Committee also found that "[q]uality measures indicate the adjusted data are more accurate overall."²

In April 2001, pursuant to the "Seven Member Rule" (5 U.S.C. § 2954), we asked Secretary of Commerce Evans to release the adjusted census data. After the Commerce Department refused to comply with our request, we filed a lawsuit in the federal district court for the Central District of California. The district court granted summary judgment in our favor. Secretary Evans then appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In a parallel proceeding within the Ninth Circuit, two Oregon state legislators filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) case for the same data. The Ninth Circuit ruled in favor of the two Oregon state legislators on October 8, 2002. On December 5, 2002, Secretary Evans turned over the adjusted census data to both us and the Oregon legislators.

We are in the process of analyzing this data. Already, however, certain important findings are clear.

First, the adjusted census data shows that the 2000 census missed millions of Americans. In total, six million Americans went uncounted in the 2000 census, and three million Americans were counted twice. On a national basis, 2.1% of Americans were not counted, and 1.1% were counted twice in the 2000 census.

Second, the adjusted census data shows that blacks, Hispanics, and other minorities were disproportionately affected by the undercount. The undercount rate for blacks was almost twice the national average; the undercount rate for Hispanics was two and a half times the national average; and the undercount rate for Native Americans, Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders was three to four times the national average. In total, almost 750,000 blacks and almost 1.2 million Hispanics were not counted in the 2000 Census.

Third, the adjusted census data shows that some states were affected more than others by the errors in the 2000 census. While there is a net undercount in every state in the country, the variation from state to state is significant. The net undercount was just 0.29% in Minnesota, while the net undercount was 1.54% in California and 1.79% in Texas — over five times higher.

¹Report of Tabulations of Population to States and Localities Pursuant to Title 13 U.S.C., Section 141(c), and Availability of Other Population Information; the Executive Steering Committee for Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation Policy (ESCAP) Report; and the Census Bureau Director's Recommendation; Notice, 66 Fed. Reg. 14005 (2001).

²*Id.* at 14006.

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In other areas, the net undercount was even higher in percentage terms: 2.19% in Washington, D.C., 2.49% in Alaska, and 4.66% in Puerto Rico. In absolute numbers, the five states with the largest net undercounts were California (509,012), Texas (364,032), New York (202,049), Florida (195,684), and Georgia (119,852).


Undercount rates within states were significantly higher for minorities than for whites. Among the fifty states, undercount rates for whites ranged from 0.03% in Minnesota to 2.58% in Alaska, whereas undercount rates for blacks ranged from 1.15% in Mississippi to 4.23% in Hawaii. Over 60,000 blacks were not counted in New York and California, over 50,000 blacks were not counted in Texas, and over 40,000 blacks were not counted in Georgia and Florida. Undercount figures for Hispanics were even higher: almost 300,000 Hispanics were not counted in California, and over 150,000 Hispanics were not counted in Texas and Puerto Rico.

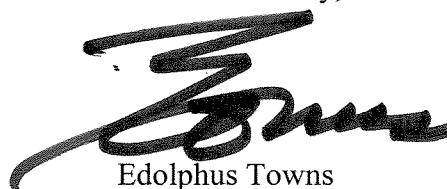
Attached to this letter are several tables that provide details about the net undercounts by state and race.


These high rates of errors in the 2000 census are unacceptable. They conflict fundamentally with the principle of "one person, one vote." And it is especially unfair that racial minorities are disproportionately affected. Ultimately, the effect of the undercount is to systematically deny full federal funding and equal political influence to states and urban areas, particularly those with large minority populations.


We urge you to work with us next Congress to ensure that we eliminate these inequities and take full advantage of the new adjusted census data from the Census Bureau.

Sincerely,

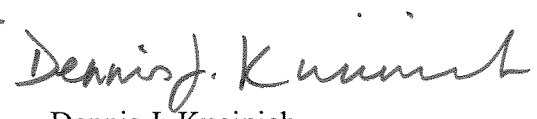

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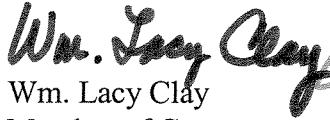

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress

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Thomas H. Allen
Member of Congress



Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress



Janice D. Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Enclosure



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Bernard Sanders
Member of Congress

Statewide Adjusted Census Results

Total Undercount by State

State	Total Unadjusted 2000 Census Population	Total Adjusted 2000 Census Population	% Undercount	Total Undercount
Alabama	4,447,100	4,499,177	1.17%	52,077
Alaska	607,583	622,719	2.49%	15,136
Arizona	5,020,782	5,093,601	1.45%	72,819
Arkansas	2,599,492	2,633,164	1.30%	33,672
California	33,051,894	33,560,906	1.54%	509,012
Colorado	4,198,306	4,251,842	1.28%	53,536
Connecticut	3,297,626	3,329,944	0.98%	32,318
Delaware	759,017	770,605	1.53%	11,588
District of Columbia	536,497	548,273	2.19%	11,776
Florida	15,593,433	15,789,117	1.25%	195,684
Georgia	7,952,631	8,072,483	1.51%	119,852
Hawaii	1,175,755	1,201,729	2.21%	25,974
Idaho	1,262,457	1,283,481	1.67%	21,024
Illinois	12,097,512	12,202,511	0.87%	104,999
Indiana	5,902,331	5,947,857	0.77%	45,526
Iowa	2,822,155	2,835,885	0.49%	13,730
Kansas	2,606,468	2,623,788	0.66%	17,320
Kentucky	3,926,965	3,975,840	1.24%	48,875
Louisiana	4,333,011	4,392,074	1.36%	59,063
Maine	1,240,011	1,256,737	1.35%	16,726
Maryland	5,162,430	5,235,806	1.42%	73,376
Massachusetts	6,127,881	6,174,884	0.77%	47,003
Michigan	9,688,555	9,757,591	0.71%	69,036
Minnesota	4,783,596	4,797,387	0.29%	13,791
Mississippi	2,749,244	2,783,770	1.26%	34,526
Missouri	5,433,153	5,458,387	0.46%	25,234
Montana	877,433	891,410	1.59%	13,977
Nebraska	1,660,445	1,669,877	0.57%	9,432
Nevada	1,964,582	1,998,067	1.70%	33,485
New Hampshire	1,200,247	1,213,992	1.15%	13,745
New Jersey	8,219,529	8,315,555	1.17%	96,026
New Mexico	1,782,739	1,818,015	1.98%	35,276
New York	18,395,996	18,598,045	1.10%	202,049
North Carolina	7,795,432	7,903,099	1.38%	107,667
North Dakota	618,569	621,509	0.48%	2,940
Ohio	11,054,019	11,116,897	0.57%	62,878
Oklahoma	3,338,279	3,385,840	1.42%	47,561
Oregon	3,343,908	3,386,902	1.29%	42,994
Pennsylvania	11,847,753	11,945,707	0.83%	97,954
Puerto Rico	3,761,836	3,937,115	4.66%	175,279
Rhode Island	1,009,503	1,018,178	0.86%	8,675
South Carolina	3,876,975	3,923,934	1.21%	46,959
South Dakota	726,426	730,528	0.56%	4,102
Tennessee	5,541,337	5,610,098	1.24%	68,761
Texas	20,290,711	20,654,743	1.79%	364,032
Utah	2,192,689	2,222,665	1.37%	29,976
Vermont	588,067	597,089	1.53%	9,022
Virginia	6,847,117	6,939,699	1.35%	92,582
Washington	5,757,739	5,840,107	1.43%	82,368
West Virginia	1,765,197	1,786,406	1.20%	21,209
Wisconsin	5,207,717	5,244,627	0.71%	36,910
Wyoming	479,699	487,322	1.59%	7,623
Totals	277,519,829	280,956,984	1.24%	3,437,155

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Undercount rates are calculated after removing the group quarters population. The Census Bureau did not adjust for this population because it was excluded from the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation.

Statewide Adjusted Census Results
Undercounts by Race and State

State	% White Undercount	Total White Undercount	% Black Undercount	Total Black Undercount	% Hispanic Undercount	Total Hispanic Undercount	% American Indian Undercount	Total American Indian Undercount	% Asian Undercount	Total Asian Undercount	% Hawaiian Undercount	Total Hawaiian Undercount
Alaska	2.58%	10,939	1.77%	359	4.81%	1,174	2.13%	2,008	0.89%	206	5.94%	192
Alabama	1.01%	32,057	1.46%	16,855	4.24%	3,217	2.56%	574	1.08%	339	5.04%	71
Arkansas	1.11%	23,183	1.79%	7,163	4.30%	3,619	3.23%	568	1.11%	219	4.83%	79
Arizona	0.94%	35,780	2.71%	4,037	2.76%	35,099	4.73%	11,790	1.05%	949	4.44%	293
California	1.02%	201,330	2.97%	63,345	2.77%	298,235	3.14%	10,196	0.95%	34,672	4.75%	5,449
Colorado	1.00%	34,885	2.95%	4,546	2.77%	19,919	3.42%	1,442	0.98%	910	4.54%	1,203
Connecticut	0.64%	17,276	2.60%	7,591	3.22%	9,992	3.35%	305	1.04%	827	3.92%	50
District of Columbia	1.57%	2,512	2.39%	7,819	3.67%	1,598	2.89%	46	1.50%	210	3.66%	10
Delaware	1.29%	7,355	2.20%	3,137	3.36%	1,230	2.98%	80	1.06%	169	3.94%	10
Florida	1.00%	122,659	2.04%	45,493	2.55%	67,017	3.00%	1,551	0.97%	2,561	4.36%	365
Georgia	1.11%	57,676	2.13%	47,929	4.49%	19,133	3.24%	680	0.98%	1,653	4.86%	196
Hawaii	1.52%	4,235	4.23%	808	4.37%	3,695	3.91%	126	0.92%	4,564	5.06%	5,617
Iowa	0.37%	9,708	1.78%	1,013	4.03%	3,239	4.12%	350	1.02%	360	4.48%	43
Idaho	1.49%	17,130	2.26%	110	4.03%	4,006	4.29%	729	0.99%	113	4.82%	61
Illinois	0.40%	35,701	2.33%	39,941	2.77%	41,899	2.93%	881	0.99%	4,100	4.01%	174
Indiana	0.52%	26,929	2.54%	12,353	3.44%	7,239	3.01%	457	1.19%	666	3.79%	73
Kansas	0.36%	8,109	2.47%	3,553	3.48%	6,427	3.58%	847	1.05%	478	3.85%	48
Kentucky	1.14%	40,463	2.11%	5,814	4.68%	2,637	3.08%	254	1.15%	325	4.92%	68
Louisiana	1.14%	31,694	1.74%	24,093	2.97%	3,084	2.87%	722	0.97%	517	4.71%	56
Massachusetts	0.51%	26,298	2.60%	8,428	3.21%	13,245	3.27%	469	1.09%	2,476	3.46%	82
Maryland	0.96%	31,740	2.40%	34,184	2.92%	6,561	2.81%	425	0.92%	1,907	4.39%	98
Maine	1.32%	15,929	1.97%	119	3.64%	321	3.93%	266	0.88%	76	4.04%	15
Michigan	0.31%	23,884	2.59%	35,092	2.80%	8,704	3.16%	1,802	1.03%	1,767	3.90%	102
Minnesota	0.03%	1,371	3.28%	5,288	3.36%	4,707	4.22%	2,194	0.69%	966	4.91%	86
Missouri	0.14%	6,378	2.45%	14,743	3.14%	3,620	3.02%	731	1.10%	658	4.87%	150
Mississippi	1.26%	21,338	1.15%	11,414	3.47%	1,656	4.03%	450	1.03%	185	4.38%	28
Montana	1.36%	10,846	2.58%	63	3.30%	578	4.67%	2,520	1.05%	47	3.74%	17
North Carolina	1.10%	61,951	1.78%	29,479	5.03%	18,548	2.94%	2,848	0.99%	1,092	4.80%	179
North Dakota	0.20%	1,130	2.96%	103	3.68%	272	4.80%	1,446	1.24%	43	5.45%	12
Nebraska	0.31%	4,676	2.61%	1,701	3.43%	3,171	4.30%	611	1.05%	223	4.60%	36
New Hampshire	1.11%	12,773	3.11%	258	3.01%	594	3.30%	93	1.14%	174	3.40%	12
New Jersey	0.80%	48,031	2.31%	25,118	2.95%	32,345	2.90%	546	0.96%	4,673	3.88%	123
New Mexico	1.42%	16,915	2.35%	756	2.33%	17,544	4.61%	7,833	1.07%	202	4.30%	63
Nevada	1.41%	20,824	2.65%	3,420	3.25%	12,658	3.84%	991	0.96%	858	4.87%	405
New York	0.56%	70,137	2.25%	64,515	3.21%	89,639	3.61%	2,902	1.13%	11,507	4.22%	357
Ohio	0.24%	22,990	2.61%	32,377	2.75%	5,828	3.05%	727	1.13%	1,468	4.22%	110
Oklahoma	0.98%	24,999	2.65%	6,379	3.36%	5,859	3.31%	8,829	1.13%	510	4.65%	101
Oregon	1.06%	30,839	3.13%	1,630	3.59%	9,666	3.79%	1,658	0.96%	953	5.24%	407
Pennsylvania	0.63%	63,919	1.97%	22,578	3.28%	12,318	2.94%	519	1.02%	2,150	3.86%	123
Puerto Rico	4.53%	137,433	5.12%	15,251	4.66%	173,217	4.99%	657	5.10%	399	4.70%	51
Rhode Island	0.54%	4,653	2.64%	1,152	4.15%	3,666	3.76%	186	1.03%	226	4.49%	24
South Carolina	0.99%	25,804	1.53%	17,301	4.94%	4,477	3.09%	409	1.02%	356	4.79%	74
South Dakota	0.13%	846	2.48%	102	3.77%	390	4.69%	2,763	1.06%	44	4.42%	11
Tennessee	1.01%	45,246	2.06%	18,372	4.45%	5,384	3.07%	451	1.02%	564	4.32%	92
Texas	1.51%	217,418	2.29%	51,933	2.78%	181,745	2.93%	3,387	1.01%	5,571	4.23%	594
Utah	1.18%	23,153	3.38%	538	3.04%	6,003	4.62%	1,305	0.96%	350	4.87%	725
Virginia	1.02%	50,787	2.37%	31,105	3.14%	10,076	3.03%	618	0.97%	2,486	4.38%	164
Vermont	1.52%	8,678	2.16%	57	3.27%	162	3.18%	75	0.98%	47	3.76%	5
Washington	1.16%	54,790	3.20%	5,708	3.87%	16,726	4.08%	3,689	0.92%	2,919	5.16%	1,203
Wisconsin	0.46%	21,275	2.94%	8,425	3.54%	6,682	4.19%	1,899	0.81%	702	4.49%	69
West Virginia	1.19%	20,003	1.26%	644	2.79%	324	2.46%	86	1.19%	107	3.15%	12
Wyoming	1.45%	6,416	2.03%	66	2.99%	919	4.52%	486	1.04%	27	3.83%	11
Totals	0.89%	1,853,091	2.24%	744,259	3.11%	1,188,847	3.62%	87,477	0.99%	99,473	4.78%	18,528

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Undercount rates are calculated after removing the group quarters population. The Census Bureau did not adjust for this population because it was excluded from the Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation.